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May - June 2016

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Introduction

Dear All,

I would like to thank Laureen Wilmott for the most interesting articles that she is providing for inclusion in the magazine. On behalf of all the readers of the magazine, thank you Laureen.

Best wishes,

Margaret

Deadline for editorial for the July/August 2016 edition - 30th May 2016

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St. Peter's Church News

St. Peter's Church News

St. Peter's Church News

St. Peter's Church News

Contact Details: Revd.Paul Roberts, telephone 01432 850484

Withington Village Hall

Chairman: Kevin Hewison Tel: 850074

Booking Secretary: Kathy Fields Tel: 851001

Treasurer: Paula Highley Tel: 851570

Elizabeth Byworth Charity

ELIZABETH BYWORTH CHARITY

The NEXT MEETING of the Trustees will take place in March 2016

If you are under 25 and live in Withington, Westhide or Eau Withington and would like some assistance with purchasing books, equipment etc. to help you with your studies please contact me at the address below. ALSO funding is available to help with the costs for Educational visits, uniforms and protective clothing.

APPLICATIONS should be made in writing stating age and approximate cost of items required and sent to the Clerk to the Trustees, Margaret Soutar, 3 Duke Street, Withington. HR1 3QD

Withington Group Parish Council

Local History

The House on the Hill



There is no house on the hill now. It was built in 1871 and had gone by the 1920's.

Industrialist Henry Higgins, who appears to have made his money in Manchester, already had property in Moreton Jeffries, before deciding to have Thinghill Mansion built. The architects, a Manchester Firm, Speakman & Hickson, created a "Scots Baronial/ early French" house, to be built on a fresh site, on a hill connected with the OLD ENGLISH ASSEMBLY. This Old English Assembly is from the Nordic THING (meeting Place). Such terminology is still in use in Scandinavia, (a legislative assembly - Court of Law - or other Public meeting). The reference to Thing Hill is probably from the time that Britain was occupied by the Danes.

Originally, the Estate is believed to have extended over 200 acres. Largely pleasure grounds. The 1881 Census shows that Henry Higgins and his wife lived there with no family, but with 8 servants with various duties. The grounds supported Lawns, raised walks, tennis and badminton courts, as well as a cricket pitch with pavilion and tea house. The pitch was said to have been used by the Withington Cricket Club of the time. In 1887 Henry Higgins held the positions of Justice of the Peace , Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire and High Sheriff. His wife Elizabeth was "Lady Bountiful" in the Village, paying for the Church heating, a new organ, and buying ' Improving Books' for the children (including a volume marking Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1896.) Henry Higgins who died in 1890 is commemorated by a stained glass window in Withington Church.

In 1899 the house was sold to a William Abbott who had one son, who was killed in action in the first world war, and with the death of William Abbott the contents of the House were put up for auction by Greenlands of Hereford in 1919. The house too was put up for sale, but it is unknown if it was actually sold then, but it is known to have been dismantled about 1929, carefully numbered, and allegedly shipped to Arizona, where it was rebuilt. Who bought it is still unknown.

Local History



The demise of the Balmoral Castle styled Mansion was one of many large houses and mansions in Hereford that were to fall into disrepair and be unwanted through of those ed with

loss of life associat- them.

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Attractive Freehold Estate of "THING-HILL"

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The **Farmhouses and Buildings** are very ample and in excellent order, requiring only ordinary repairs in the future.

The **Lands** generally are in a high state of cultivation, about equally divided between grass and arable, whilst the Hop-yards are amongst the best in the district. The Cider Orchards are also a feature in the Farm occupations. Each Farm has a sufficient number of Labourers' Cottages.

The **Woods** in hand are about 48 acres.

The Mansion, which was built in 1871, and lately occupied by the Owner, Mrs. HENRY HIGGINS (now deceased), is delightfully placed on elevated ground, commanding fine and extensive views, including the range of the Malvern Hills, the Welsh Mountains, and the Valley of the Wye—in fact, much of the magnificent scenery for which this lovely district is famed. For particulars and dimensions of rooms see page 4. The Mansion is approached by a long drive, with ornamental Lodge, and is situated in the centre of the meads of the North Hereford and Ledbury Foxhounds, and within two miles of a reserved river for Grayling Fishing. The Post and Telegraph Office is about one mile away, and the Parish Church within an easy walk.

The **Salmon Fishing** on the Wye is within easy reach.

The **Partridge Shooting** is excellent.

The appendages of the Mansion are all that can be desired for a country seat, including capital stabling for ten horses, with good Coach-houses, Harness Rooms, Coachman's Cottage, and Grooms' Rooms; large well-stocked Fruit and Vegetable Garden, fair amount of Glasshouses, Gardeners', Keepers', and Workmen's Cottages, &c.; and there is also a complete set of Model Farm Buildings adjoining the stables, with Fowl Houses, Hay Barn, &c.

The **Pleasure Grounds** are inexpensive to maintain.

Preston Wynne

Preston Wynne

Memories by Bryan Davies

The A.T.C (Air Training Corps)

When I was of secondary school age I was fortunate enough to attend a grammar school in a small sea-side town not far from my village. This was no ordinary grammar school. To me it had one very special feature. It had attached to it an A. T. C. (Air Training Corps) squadron and all boys who attended the school were eligible to join when they were old enough.

Some years before I attended the school, my elder brother was a pupil and the various things he did and the tales he told me about the A.T.C, saw me volunteering to join as soon as I was old enough.

The squadron was run by the Latin and History teacher Mr. Fox, a gentleman who was a strict disciplinarian and a hard taskmaster feared by all the school. His use of the cane for even the mildest misdemeanour was well known. His very presence in the school, especially if he was hovering nearby, made one almost jump to attention and smarten up even if you couldn't see him.

The squadron met for their weekly Friday meeting after school in a hut by the sea shore, a good distance from the school. At the squadron meeting Mr. Fox wasn't quite the same man as the Mr. Fox we knew in school, having somehow had a personality change in between the school and the hut. He would become quite friendly and almost pleasant. I know that some of the boys who joined did so in order to curry favour with Mr. Fox. I know this because my older brother had worked hard and took the A.T.C. squadron very seriously and there developed a special relationship between teacher and pupil. Even though my brother had left school before I started, this became evident on one particular occasion when I was lined up with others by Mr. Fox in the corridor outside the staff room awaiting our punishment for some mild mis-behaviour or other. Cane in hand he started at the far end of the row, the "swish" of the cane drawing nearer as it struck the outstretched hands of the quaking recipients until he came to me at the end of the line, by which time I could literally feel my knees knocking. His upheld cane seemed to stop just above his shoulder as he looked at me, his pale blue eyes unblinking as they peered from his pock marked face. "Are you Donald's brother?" he almost snarled. I mumbled that I was whereupon he lowered his arm and told me to behave myself and to return to my classroom.

Permanently parked on the upper playground of the school was a beautiful, silver skinned biplane, a Gloucester Gladiator which was maintained in perfect condition by the squadron and which was used from time to time by Mr. Fox as he pointed out to the cadets the various parts of the aircraft, how it flew etc. Of course no one vandalised it as to be caught doing so would unleash punishment that even the bravest of us would not contemplate. This beautiful aircraft ignited in me a love of aeroplanes which has lasted until this day.

The A.T.C. taught me many things. Some of us learned the Morse code and could communicate with each other fairly fluently; we were taught to box (in the ring); how to march, how to use a rifle etc. Perhaps the most important lesson of all was the way we learnt to work together and live together.

Memories by Bryan Davies

In the summer time we would spend a couple of weeks at an R.A.F. station. I clearly remember visiting three R.A.F. stations over the years. Once while in Cornwall I flew in an Avro Lancaster at night for 6 hours while dropping flares searching for some sea scouts who were lost in the channel. On another occasion I flew in an Avro Anson on routine patrol. The best flight I had was in a Sunderland flying boat, taking off from Loch Ryan in Scotland, heading for the Isle of Man. This time I actually flew the aircraft for about 20 minutes. What a terrific experience for a young lad.

So, thanks to Mr. Fox, that cane wielding Latin teacher, for instilling in me the love of flying; the love of aeroplanes; the love and discipline of the air force and school. Strangely enough I later served two years in the R.A.F., not flying but as a dog handler. My brother however spent the whole of the war in the R.A.F. as an electrician working on Hawker Hurricanes and Spitfires. My younger daughter spent 20 years in the R.A.F and a further 7 years in the Royal Australian Air Force. Strange what life throws at you.



Sunderland Flying Boat



Gloucester Gladiator

Westhide

Local History

Have Your Say

Your Letters, Views and Comments.

From April 2016 it will be compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped. All dogs and puppies (by 8 weeks of age) MUST be microchipped and registered on a government compliant database such as Petlog managed by The Kennel Club by April 2016. All owner details must be kept up to date on the database, failure to do so could lead to a fine of £500.00. Please contact Beverley on 07811322063 for microchipping



**Happy 11th Birthday to
Carys Lloyd on 29th May
Lots of love from
Mum, Dad, Rose and 'the girls'.**

Contact Names and Telephone Numbers

Byworth Trust Clerk	Margaret Soutar	850448
Cross Keys	Chris Corbin	820616
Gateway Bridge Club	Adrian Lunt	359463
Music Tots	Gemma Griffiths	07890 1780 99

Police

Community Support	Dean Wall/Elena Ekanite	101
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St. Peters Church

Rector	Jane Davies	850244
Church Warden	Kevin Hewison	850074

PCC Secretary	Marcia Hopkins	850933
Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison	850074

Village Hall

Chairman	Kevin Hewison	850074
Booking Secretary	Kathy Fields	851001

WG Parish Council

Clerk	Sophie Glover	270499 (Office Hours)
Chairman	Paul Bainbridge	850655
Vice-Chairman	Ralph Barber	853068

Whitestone Chapel

Ian Porter	01981 540388
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Withington Football Club

Chairman	Steve Caine	851857
Secretary	Ray Rice	850669

Withington Post Office	850356
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Withington Primary School	850289
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Withington Parish Magazine	Margaret Thompson	850182
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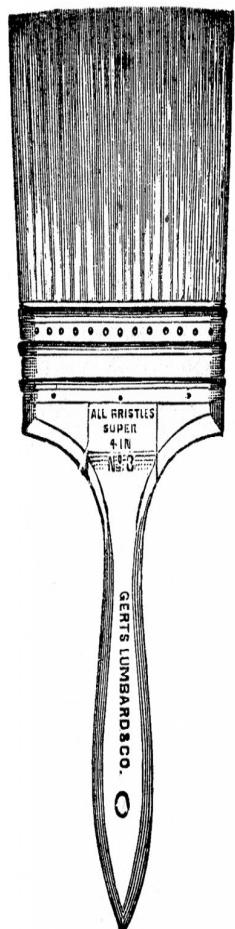
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